

In Germany, as a young spouse, she observed the struggles that other Army families faced finding adequate childcare amidst hectic lives as new parents in a new place. Rather than accepting the status quo, Mary put others first, creating a childcare center on base to minimize at least one stressor for these families willing to uproot their lives to serve our country.

Further down the line, on station in New Mexico on the White Sands Missile Range, now the wife of the commanding officer, she once again pushed for improvements on base. Finding that elements of a nutritious diet were hard to come by in this remote location, Ms. Gatanas fought to ensure that fresh produce and dairy products would be available to families in the commissary.

Ms. Gatanas was also an activist for military families off-base. She worked diligently to advocate for legislation that would ensure military spouses would be treated equitably in divorce proceedings when it came to accessing military retirement pay. In 1982, her efforts paid off as the Uniformed Services Former Spouses' Protection Act passed through Congress.

Amidst these impressive accomplishments, Mary never wavered on her number one priority—the up-bringing of her son Andrew and daughter Adrienne. This devotion to her loved ones has continued unfettered, as she now relishes the opportunity to shower her grandchildren, Tristan, Markella and Tatum with that same love.

Mr. Speaker, it is evident that wherever Ms. Gatanas lived, she became a catalyst for change, working tirelessly to improve the lives of all those around her. She is well-deserving of our praise on this day. I wish Ms. Gatanas a very happy 80th birthday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL JOHNSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained, but had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 46.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NATHANIEL MORAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 74.

REINTRODUCTION OF THE TRANSITION-TO-SUCCESS MENTORING ACT

HON. ANDRÉ CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 31, 2023

Mr. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, as we mark National Mentoring Month, I am proud to reintroduce legislation to the Transition-To-Success Mentoring Act to help local education agencies prepare at-risk students for the transition from middle school to high school. I would like to thank MENTOR for their endorsement of this bill and Senator BOOKER for his leadership on this legislation in the Senate.

I have had many mentors at every stage of my life, whether it was my theatre teacher in school who encouraged me to be who I am and elevated the confidence in myself to pursue sports, or my grandmother who raised me and a reason I find myself following her large footsteps. Mentors are important at every stage in life and especially at a young age. Our children need to foster these mentor/mentee relationships to look up to someone bigger than themselves.

The Transition-To-Success Mentoring Act would establish a grant program for school-based mentoring programs targeted at helping at-risk middle school students transition from middle to high school. Under my legislation, participating students would develop and execute a formalized plan for success in high school and beyond, and be supported by a school faculty member or volunteer from the community known as a "Success Coach."

Middle school is a uniquely challenging time for students and ensuring a smooth transition from middle to high school is critical to their long-term success. School-based mentoring is innovative supplement to the traditional learning that takes place in the classroom, providing underserved and at-risk students with attention and support to keep them engaged in school. This legislation is a small step towards providing some of the most vulnerable students with individual attention to help cross the bridge towards high school, college, and career.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in recognizing the need for mentors for our children by signing on to this important legislation.